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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Wolfgang RUF et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No : 10/072,876

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : February 12, 2002

For : LAMELLA OF A HEADBOX OF A PAPER, CARDBOARD OR
TISSUE MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

The following documents were discussed in the instant application:

(1) German Patent Application No. 40 19 593 A1 published January 9, 1992,

which was discussed in paragraph [0060];

(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,707,495 issued to Heinzmann et al. January 13, 1998, which

was discussed in paragraph [0060]; and

(3) U.S. Patent No. 5,885,420 issued to Heinzmann et al. March 23, 1999, which

was discussed in paragraph [0060].

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated April 15, 2002 conducted in European Patent Application No. 02000741.5-2314- which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(4) International Patent Application No. WO 97/47804 published December 18, 1997, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question one of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular the European Examiner noted page 10, line 9 - page 11, line 26 and figures 1 and 7 as relevant to claims 1, 3-5 of the European application. This document is also cited as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention). The European Examiner identified this document as relevant to claims 2 and 6 of the European application;

(5) U.S. Patent No. 4,617,091 issued to Rodal et al. October 14, 1986, as an "X" category document. In particular the European Examiner noted claims 7, 12, 14 and figure 2 as relevant to claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 of the European application; and

(6) German Patent Application No. 43 29 810 A1 published June 23, 1994, as an "X" category document and as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed

in the present application). In particular the European Examiner noted column 2, line 27 - line 66 and figures 2, 3, and 9 as relevant to claims 1 and 6 of the European application. This document is also cited as an “A” category document, in which the European Examiner identified this document as relevant to claims 2-4 and 7 of the European application. Moreover, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0004]. For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,352 issued to Ruf et al. on June 17, 1997, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited German document. Moreover, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0067].

(7) German Patent Application No. 44 40 079 A1 published May 23, 1996, as an “X” category document and as a “D” category document. In particular the European Examiner noted column 3, line 32 - line 45 and figures 1-8 as relevant to claim 1 of the European application. Moreover, Applicants note that this document is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0003]. For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,645,689 issued to Ruf et al. on July 8, 1997, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited German document;

- (8) U.S. Patent No. 3,843,470 issued to Betley et al. October 22, 1974, as an "A" category document. In particular the European Examiner noted figures 5, 6, and 10-13 as relevant to claim 1 of the European application; and
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 4,941,950 issued to Sanford July 17, 1990, as an "A" category document. In particular the European Examiner noted figures 4-9 as relevant to claim 1 of the European application.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated June 19, 2001 conducted in German Patent Application No. 101 06 684.8, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular the German Examiner cited:

- (10) German Patent Application No. 199 02 623 A1 published July 27, 2000, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category).

The German Examiner noted figures 6-8 of this document as relevant to claims 1 and 2 the German application;

- (11) German Patent Application No. 43 29 810 A1 published June 23, 1994, as a "D" category document and as a "Y" category document. The German Examiner identified this document as relevant to claims 1 and 2, but did not cite any portions of the German application. Applicants note that this document corresponds to item (3) above;

(12) German Patent Application No. 44 40 079 A1 published May 23, 1996, as a "D" category document and as a "Y" category document. The German Examiner identified this document as relevant to claims 1 and 2, but did not cite any portions of the German application. Applicants note that this document corresponds to item (4) above;

(13) German Patent Application No. 200 15 471 U1 published December 21, 2000, as a "Y" category document. The German Examiner noted figures 2-4 of this document as relevant to claims 1 and 2 the German application.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed (including a copy of the European Search Report and the German Search Report) as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing this document. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider this document and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the date of filing, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

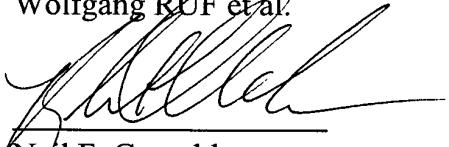
However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to

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charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit
Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the
undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang RUF et al.


Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394



May 14, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191